

## Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

# **Taylor County**

#### County characteristics

- 979 sq. mi.
- South ½ farmland/woodlots; north ½ woodland contains US Forest Service land, County Forest and Pershing Wildlife Area
- Waters: 283 lakes and flowages including the largest Chequamegon Waters Flowage, 4 major warm-water streams; and 10 trout streams.
- There are 19,718 residents living in Taylor County





#### Public Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 30% of Taylor County is publicly-owned land, US Forest Service 123,952 ac., County Forest and Parks 18,534 ac., Pershing Wildlife Area 7,880 ac. and The Diamond Lake State property 248 ac.
- Over 150,000 acres open to hunting and fishing Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr lands mapping.html

#### Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- Wildlife staff shared from Rusk County; 1 Wildlife Technician; 1 Fisheries Biologist; 1 Fisheries Technician; 1 Conservation Warden
- Staff also serve portions of Price and Rusk Co.

#### Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Provide public access via boat launches and shoreline fishing facilities. These include the
  installation of fishing piers on Miller Dam, Mondeaux Flowage, Chelsea Lake and Kathryn Lake;
  and access improvements on Miller Dam, Sackett Lake, North Spirit Lake, and Diamond Lake.
- The installation, operation and/or monitoring of winter aeration systems on waters that include Miller Dam Flowage, Rib Lake, Mondeaux Flowage, Kathryn Lake, and Big Spirit Lake.
- Fish habitat improvement projects that include the placement log fish cribs on Miller Dam, Sackett Lake, Kathryn Lake, South Harper Lake, Esadore Lake,
  - Diamond Lake and Richter Lake; and installation of a walleye spawning reef on Rib Lake.
- Fishery surveys, monitoring and/or management plans on waters such as Rib Lake, Big Spirit Lake, Diamond Lake, Sackett Lake, Miller Dam, Mondeaux Flowage, Kathryn Lake, North Twin Lake, Spirit River, Little Black River, Wood Creek and Sheepranch Creek.
- Beaver control activities on affected trout streams and other impacted areas.



Activities continued...

- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as, building and maintaining parking areas.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, woodcock, deer, bear, frogs, grassland birds, sharptail grouse, eagles, osprey, wolves and various endangered and threatened species.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functioning for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.

#### Taylor County Conservation Snapshots

Boat Launches 17 ALIS Agents Supported 7 Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration Stations



#### Fish Stocking Summary

• 14 lakes and streams stocked with trout, walleye, northern pike, muskellunge or largemouth bass.

#### **County Success Stories**

- Over the last 20 years, Miller Dam Flowage (Chequamegon Waters Flowage) has developed into one of the premiere fisheries in the north - featuring an abundant largemouth bass population, trophy northern pike and abundant, high-quality panfish populations.
- Wildlife staff provides input on county forest plans and helps develop wildlife projects on the Taylor County Forest.

### Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres;
     Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management